1953

BUCKINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman of Council :
W. G. Beckett, Esq.

General Purposes Committee :
Chairman :
A. Powell, Esq.

Members :

Col. R. L. Agnew
Mrs. K. D. Benfield
C. Bryant, Esq.
S. M. Cotton, Esq.
Mrs. S. M. Crook
W. Durrant, Esq.
Hon. Mrs. M. E. Fortescue
W. E. Good, Esq.
Hon. Mrs. H. Heywood-Lonsdale
A. Hodges, Esq.
P. J. Hodges, Esq.
T. S. Mitchinson, Esq.
Capt. G. Robarts.
Mrs. M. M. Spiers.
D. A. Stewart, Esq.
F. Tofield, Esq.
W. F. Wood, Esq.

W. G. Beckett, Esq. and A. Powell, Esq.
ex-officio members.

Public Health Staff :

Medical Officer of Health :
D. H. Waldron,
O.B.E., M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H., Col. I.A.M.C. (Rtd.).
(The Medical Officer of Health is also M.O.H. for Buckingham M.B., Bletchley U.D.C., Linslade U.D.C., Wing R.D.C., Area Medical Officer for North Bucks and Divisional School Medical Officer for North Bucks and the Buckingham and Winslow Divisions).

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector :
J. C. Sharpe, M.R.SAN, I., M.S.I.A.

Technical Assistant :
K. E. Richardson.

Administrative Assistant :
C. H. Bray.

BUCKINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council Offices,
School Lane,
Buckingham.
July 15th, 1954.

To The Chairman and Members of Buckingham Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1953.

The Birth Rate shows a drop from the previous year and is now back to the 1951 level.

The Death Rate shows a most satisfactory drop from last year and at 6.8 per 1,000 of the population is the lowest but one of all the County Districts and is much below that for the Country as a whole, which was 11.4.

The Infantile Mortality Rate shows a further gratifying drop to 7.1 per 1,000 births compared to 26.8 for the rest of the Country.

In the realm of Infectious Disease, we had an epidemic of Measles in the early part of the year which carried on until July. There was also a mild epidemic of Scarlet Fever in the Steeple Claydon area during the September and October months.

Four cases of Anterior Poliomyelitis were notified during the year. Two were adults and two school children. The cases were all very mild. The only association between cases was in those of the two school children who attended the same school and the same class. Careful enquiries produced no evidence as to the origin of the disease in any of the cases. All necessary precautions were taken and no further incidents occurred in any of the contacts. The control of this disease still presents one of the most baffling problems in preventive medicine.

I should like to record again another satisfactory year of co-operation with your Clerk, Mr. Floyd, your Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Sharpe, and their staffs.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

Daniel H. Waldron.

SECTION A.

Vital Statistics

	1952	1953
Area (in acres)	54,543	54,543
Population	10,270	10,180
Number of Inhabited Houses	2,654	2,681
Rateable Value	£39,895	£41,355
Rate per £	21/9½	22/7¼
Sum represented by a penny Rate	£160/15/3	£149/18/9
Births :		
Legitimate—Males	82	75
,, Females	73	61
Illegitimate—Males	4	3
,, Females	4	1
Birth rate per 1,000 population	15.9	13.8
,, ,, ,, (Bucks) ...	15.2	14.9
,, ,, (England & Wales)	15.3	15.5
Deaths—Males	42	38
,, Females	34	31
Death rate per 1,000 population	7.4	6.8
,, ,, ,, (Bucks) ...	9.9	9.7
,, ,, (England & Wales)	11.3	11.4
Maternal Mortality Rate	Nil	Nil
,, ,, (England & Wales)	0.72	0.76
Infantile Mortality :		
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births	12.3	7.1
Ditto for Bucks	25.0	20.0
Ditto for England & Wales ...	27.6	26.8
Still Births	6	3
Deaths from Measles	Nil	1
,, Whooping Cough	Nil	Nil
,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil	Nil

Principal Causes of Death:	1952 M.	1952 F.	1952 T.	1953 M.	1953 F.	1953 T.
Influenza	–	1	1	–	1	1
Respiratory Tuberculosis ...	–	–	–	2	0	2
Other Tuberculosis	–	–	–	–	–	–
Cancer	8	4	12	6	6	12
Diabetes	–	1	1	–	–	–
Cerebral Haemorrhage ...	7	9	16	4	6	10
Heart Disease	12	6	18	12	8	20
Other Circulatory Diseases ...	1	–	1	1	–	1
Bronchitis	1	1	2	–	1	1
Pneumonia	–	1	1	1	1	2
Other Respiratory Diseases	–	–	–	–	2	2
Digestive Diseases	2	3	5	2	–	2
Nephritis	2	–	2	1	2	3
Puerperal Pyrexia and Fever	–	–	–	–	–	–
Congenital Causes	–	–	–	–	–	–
Violence	3	2	5	3	1	4
All other Causes	6	6	12	6	3	9
Totals	42	34	76	38	31	69

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services

1. Laboratory Facilities.

Specimens for bacteriological investigation were sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Oxford, as in previous years. Specimens for qualitative and quantative analysis had to be sent to London.

2. Ambulance Services.

This service, which is controlled by the County Health Department, provided for one Motor Ambulance and one sitting case car, located at Buckingham and supplemented if necessary by vehicles from Bletchley. The service deals with all types of cases, general, accident and infectious disease.

3. Nursing Facilities.

The District Nurses in the Buckingham Rural Area carried out their duties in their usual conscientious manner.

4. Clinics.

(a) *Child Welfare Centre*—There are six static welfare centres serving the District. They are located as follows :—

Buckingham (twice monthly).	Tingewick (twice monthly).
Steeple Claydon (twice monthly).	Twyford (once monthly).
Thornborough (once monthly).	Winslow (twice monthly).

The work of the mobile unit continued during the year and the following villages were visited monthly :—

Akeley.	Leckhampstead.
Calvert.	Lillingstone Dayrell.
Charndon.	Preston Bissett.

The District Nurse and Health Visitor attended each session and the Medical Officer attended one monthly. These Centres have done very good work during the year and a total of 1601 children have attended. I should like again to emphasize the excellent work done by the Ladies' Voluntary Committees, who give such valuable assistance at the Centres.

(b) *Immunization Clinics.*—Immunization against Diphtheria and also Whooping Cough was carried out at all the above Centres.

(c) *Chest Clinic.*—The Clinic holds weekly sessions and is administered jointly by the Regional Hospital Board and the County Health Department. A chest physician attends each session. It is equipped with X-ray plant and is doing excellent work.

(d) *Orthopaedic Clinic.* — This clinic is organized by the Wingfield-Morris Hospital, Oxford. It holds two sessions a month at the Town Hall, Buckingham, and an Orthopaedic Surgeon attends alternate months.

5. Hospitals.

(a) *Infectious Diseases.*—Cases were accepted by the following hospitals during the year :—

Slade Hospital, Oxford.
Isolation Hospital, Aylesbury.
Harborough Road Isolation Hospital, Northampton.

(b) *Tuberculosis.* — Cases were treated at the Berks and Bucks Joint Sanatorium, Peppard, and Tindal Hospital, Aylesbury.

(c) *General Hospitals.*—General cases were admitted to the following hospitals during the year.

Buckingham Hospital.
Royal Bucks Hospital, Aylesbury.
Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford.
Northampton General Hospital.
Tindal Hospital, Aylesbury.
Wingfield-Morris Hospital, Oxford.

6. Domestic Help Service.

This service, instituted under the National Health Service is administered on behalf of the County Council by the Women's Voluntary Service.

The County Council have now appointed a full-time Domestic Help Organizer, working directly under the County Health Department but in close liaison with the Women's Voluntary Service, who will pay particular attention to rural areas.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. Water Supply.

The Bucks Water Board, of which your Council is a constituent authority, continues to supply every parish with water.

Work in connection with the Bucks Water Board (River Great Ouse) Regional Scheme, reached a state whereby on October 1st the Board began to supply water from the Foscote Treatment Works. By the end of the year the demand on these works was running at nearly 750,000 gallons a day.

During the year, mains extensions have been carried out to a total length of 2,914 yards, of which 2,868 yards were in the Marsh Gibbon area.

Main Supply.

(*a*) Quantity—Satisfactory.
(*b*) Quality—Satisfactory.
(*c*) Samples taken from the supply (both of which fell in Class I of the Ministry of Health's grading) ... 2
(*d*) Number of dwelling houses on supply 2403
(*e*) Estimated number of population served 9492

Other Sources.

(*a*) Samples taken 7
(*b*) Samples found upon analysis to be unfit ... 4
(in all cases informal action was taken with the owners of the property concerned to provide a wholesome supply).

Summary of Results of Water Samples taken from Other than Main Supply for Bacteriological Examination during the past Seven Years.

Year	*No. of Samples taken and examined*	*Result*	
		Satisfactory	*Unsatisfactory*
1947	7	–	7
1948	19	7	12
1949	6	4	2
1950	6	3	3
1951	12	2	10
1952	4	2	2
1953	7	3	4
Totals	61	21	40
		65·57% unsatisfactory.	

2. Rivers and Streams.

The streams and water courses throughout the district are still polluted in varying degrees by drainage effluent and adequate disposal arrangements for sewage would obviate to a large degree such pollution.

3. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The Thornborough Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme was completed during the year and was formally opened by A. T. Thorne, Esqre., in May. The inhabitants of the village have taken advantage of the new scheme to instal new drainage, bathrooms and Water Closets, and by the end of the year there were a few properties which had not taken advantage of the new scheme.

The Tingewick Disposal Works continue to function satisfactorily but this is only due to the maintenance and attention that is given by the Department, despite the overloading by the adjacent Army Camp. The Council are still in the process of negotiating with the War Department regarding the financial aspect and the Council's Consultant Engineers have been asked to prepare drawings for the enlargement of the works and to bring the scheme up to the tender stage.

The Marsh Gibbon Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme, which was put out to tender at the end of 1952, was eventually deferred by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government due to restrictions on capital expenditure. It is hoped that this deferrment will be only for a short time.

4. Water Closets.

Six conversions to the water carriage system have been carried out by the Council during the year. Private individuals have also done work of this nature to various properties.

5. Public Cleansing.

The refuse collecting vehicle is now 6 years old but it has continued to give satisfactory service during the year.

The amount of refuse collected is on the increase and it is estimated that 120 tons are collected and disposed of monthly. The Council will have to give thought to the provision of another vehicle to replace the existing one, although it is hoped the old one will still give service for a further year or two. Most householders in the district would welcome a more frequent collection than once a month and the old folks especially would like the refuse picked up from their back door instead of themselves having to struggle with it to the grass verge.

In giving thought to the purchase of a new vehicle, it would be of benefit if one of a larger capacity was purchased so that less time is spent on the haulage from parish to tip.

The household refuse continues to be disposed of by tipping and every effort is made with the small labour force available to keep the tip in a presentable condition.

Cesspool and Septic Tank emptying continues to be carried out by contract and this has been executed in a satisfactory manner.

The income from the sale of waste paper and scrap iron fell considerably during the year, which was mainly due to the fall in prices. The total income for the Council was £28. The price obtained from the sale of salvaged materials is not sufficient to make special journeys for this purpose and only materials that are put out by way of the ordinary collection are picked up.

A number of Authorities have abandoned the salvage collection entirely, but I am of the opinion that if the waste paper can be kept separate from the ordinary household refuse, so much the better, for apart from the small source of revenue, no problem arises as far as tipping is concerned.

6. Schools.

Improvements have been carried out during the year in connection with the modernisation of sanitary arrangements and canteen facilities.

7. Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no public swimming baths in the Rural District but an adjacent Public School gives facilities for the use of their private pool to rural residents during the out of term time. This pool is part of an existing lake, sited within the School grounds.

8. Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No cases of infestation were reported during the year.

9. Rats and Mice Destruction

The year's working has been a very satisfactory one and was again carried out without the necessity of a statutory notice.

The van used for this purpose is getting towards the end of its life and consideration will have to be given to the purchase of another vehicle.

Work of Inspection and Control.

(*a*)	Number of Complaints received	35
(*b*)	Number of Inspections and Visits carried out ...	1940
(*c*)	Number of rat infested areas cleared	104

10. General Survey of Inspections and Visits During the Year.

A brief summary of other inspections and visits made during 1953 is appended below :—

Total Numbers of Premises visited	1549
Complaints received	86
Informal Notices served	65
Statutory Notices served	4

Factories and Workshops.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	*Number on Register*	*Number of Inspections*	*Written Notices*	*Occupiers prosecuted*
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authorities.	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
2. Factories not included in 1 in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	17	23	Nil	Nil
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises).	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total ...	18	23	—	—

Tents, Vans and Moveable Dwellings.

Number licensed	10
Number of Inspections	19
Nuisances found to exist	4

Drainage.

Number of New drains examined	82
Number of visits for that purpose	248
Number of W.C.'s installed	69
Number of new soil and ventilating pipes installed ...	51

Storage of Petroleum Spirit.

Number of Petroleum Licences, December 1953 :

500 gallons or less	27
Over 500 gallons but not more than 1,000 gallons ...	9
Over 1,000 gallons	3
Total licences issued	39

One licence to store 110 lb. of Carbide of Calcium was issued during the year.

Number of inspections or tests carried out	6

Infectious Diseases.

Number of Visits	35
Number of Disinfections	15
Number of Rooms cleansed	15

Housing and Building Byelaws.

Number of Plans deposited for new houses	5
Number of Plans deposited for other works	109
General housing visits	324

Other classified Visits.

Housing visits under the Housing Acts	70
Housing visits under the Public Health Acts	62
Visits re water supply	37
Visits re drainage and sewerage	203
Visits re refuse collection	95
Visits re refuse disposal	63
Visits in connection with sewage disposal	257
Schools	10
General nuisances	20
Overcrowding	2
Accumulation of refuse	2
Foul ditches and ponds	46
Visits to shops	15
Unclassified	41

SECTION D.

Housing

Up to the end of the year the Council had completed 325 post war houses but the rate of progress during the last year tended to decrease, which was no doubt due to a smaller housing programme. It would appear that all urgent cases in need of housing accommodation have now been dealt with and that the time is now ripe to embark upon a slum clearance programme. There are numbers of premises in the Rural District where slum conditions exist and the more urgent of these should be dealt with at the earliest opportunity. Naturally any slum clearance programme will have to be geared to the probable rate of rebuilding and it is anticipated that during the coming year a slum clearance programme covering a period of years will be placed before the Council.

During the year, the Government's Housing, Rents and Repairs Bill received considerable discussion and it is anticipated that with certain amendments, this will be placed upon the Statute Book during the coming year.

Erection of Post War Council Houses up to December, 1953

Parish	*Houses*	*Bungalows*	*Total Completed*	*Under Construction*
Adstock	12	—	12	—
Akeley	8	—	8	—
Beachampton	10	—	10	—
Biddlesden	4	—	4	—
Charndon	6	—	6	—
Chetwode	4	—	4	—
Edgcott	8	—	8	—
Hillesden	6	—	6	—
Lillingstone Lovell ...	4	—	4	—
Maids Moreton	15	—	15	—
Marsh Gibbon	16	—	16	—
Middle Claydon	4	—	4	—
Padbury	14	—	14	—
Poundon	3	—	3	—
Preston Bissett	12	—	12	—
Radclive-cum-Chackmore	4	—	4	—
Steeple Claydon	44	39	83	8
Thornborough	18	—	18	—
Thornton	4	—	4	—
Tingewick	33	10	43	—
Turweston	6	—	6	—
Twyford	6	—	6	—
Westbury	17	—	17	—
Total	258	49	307	8

Total number of houses erected and occupied during the year 1953 23

Erection of Post War Houses by Private Enterprise up to December 1953.

Parish	*Houses*	*Bungalows*	*Total Completed*	*Under Construction*
Akeley...	—	1	1	—
Adstock	—	1	1	2
Beachampton	4	—	4	—
Biddlesden	5	—	5	—
Charndon	—	10	10	—
Hillesden	1	—	1	—
Leckhampstead ...	1	—	1	—
Lillingstone Lovell ...	—	1	1	—
Maids Moreton	3	—	3	1
Marsh Gibbon	3	3	6	—
Padbury	6	—	6	—
Radclive-cum-Chackmore	3	—	3	—
Steeple Claydon ...	—	1	1	1
Stowe	14	—	14	—
Thornborough	2	2	4	—
Tingewick	1	1	2	1
Turweston	2	1	3	—
Water Stratford ...	—	1	1	—
Westbury	6	—	6	—
Total	51	22	73	5

Total number of houses erected and occupied during the year 1953 8

The Council will note that there has been a considerable decrease in the total number of houses erected by private enterprise during the year. I think there are two reasons for this, one being that the district's housing problem of post war years has been more or less solved and secondly the financial aspect in relation to the high costs of building.

Houses included in Clearance Orders confirmed by the Minister Pre-War but not yet demolished.

Parish	*Number of Houses*	*Number still occupied*
Akeley	6	3
Beachampton ...	3	3
Stowe	7	7
Tingewick ...	2	2

Inspection and Action During the Year.

Number of Houses found to be in a state unfit for habitation	3
Number of Houses in respect of which an undertaking was signed to render the premises fit for habitation ...	Nil
Number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was signed that the premises owned would not be re-let for habitation	Nil
Number of houses found to be unfit and upon which a Demolition order was made	4

Overcrowding.

No cases of overcrowding were investigated during the year.

The Defence (General) Regulations 1939.

Five licences were issued during the year to enable owners of six houses on which a Clearance Order is in force, to temporarily use the premises for habitation.

Building Licensing

Repairs to houses have proceeded satisfactorily during the year and many of the licensing restrictions have been taken off. The high cost of repairs however make it extremely difficult for owners to maintain their property in a good state of repair. During the year six licences were issued for the purposes of repairing dwelling houses, all of them being of value greater than £500, which is the maximum 'free' limit.

Improvement Grants

During the year, six applications were made to the Council for the purpose of obtaining grants for the improvement of dwellings under the Housing Act 1949. All these applications were subsequently approved by the Council and sanction given by the Government Department concerned.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

MILK.

The sampling of milk which is undertaken by the Food and Drugs Authority, brought to light the existence of tuberculosis in two dairy herds in the district, whilst further samples denoted the presence of brucella abortus on fifteen farms. Investigations were made in all cases and as a result of further veterinary inspections and the slaughtering of animals, the herds affected with tuberculosis were pronounced clear. As far as brucella abortus is concerned, the milk from the infected farms was diverted for pasteurisation and the veterinary service called in for further investigations.

Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949.

Number of Distributors on register	7

The following supplementary licences were issued during the year under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1949 authorising the use of the Special Designation :—

" Tuberculin Tested "	3
" Pasteurised "	1

ICE CREAM

Total number of retailers on register	18
New applications received and licences granted ...	5

Samples of ice cream have been taken from premises serving ice cream to the public. These samples were sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Oxford, for bacteriological examination by the methylene blue reduction test and were graded as follows :—

Provisional Grade I	2
,, ,, II	4
,, ,, III	1
,, ,, IV	1

This test affords a simple means for the grading of the bacteriological cleanliness of ice cream.

FOOD.

During the year ten cases of cysticercus bovis occurred in animals sent from this district for slaughter. Investigations were subsequently made but no further evidence was forthcoming as to the probable source of infection.

Foods condemned during the year, include the following :—

Beef Sausage	36 lb.

Food Poisoning

No cases of food poisoning were notified in the District during the year.

Bakehouses.

Number on register	4
Number of visits	3
Contravention of Regulations	1

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and Other Diseases

GENERAL.

An epidemic of measles carried on from 1952 continued until July. A mild epidemic of Scarlet Fever occurred in the Steeple Claydon area in the September-October period.

NOTIFICATIONS.

Disease	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Measles	123	101	224
Scarlet Fever	14	11	25
Whooping Cough ...	—	2	2
Pneumonia	2	2	4
Erysipelas	1	1	2
Poliomyelitis (N.P.) ...	1	3	4
Total	141	120	261

CANCER.

There were twelve deaths from this disease during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

One case of non-pulmonary and three cases of pulmonary were notified. Of the pulmonary cases, one was a displaced person. The three cases of Pulmonary were transfers into the district. There were two deaths from Pulmonary T.B. during the year.

DANIEL H. WALDRON,
Medical Officer of Health.

JOHN C. SHARPE,
Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.